

which the young bird remained in the nest seemed to me longer than is usually the case.

After having exposed a considerable length of cinema film at the homes of different birds I must confess that, for thrills, still photography appeals to me more. I have proved to my own satisfaction too that motion pictures may be obtained only in one-fourth the number of cases where still photography would be possible. This proportion could be increased somewhat by using a lens of longer focus and so operating from a greater distance. This method of working, however, gives pictures which cannot compare with those taken, for instance, with a two inch lens, which I consider ideal. Moreover, it is impracticable to use the pictures obtained with a motion picture camera in any other way than on the screen. The very small images do not enlarge successfully, are somewhat harsh, and are not suitable for ordinary illustration.

It is apparent also that the average Nature photographer cannot possess a cinema projector to show his pictures, even could he afford to provide himself with copies of the film he exposes. On the other hand, it must be admitted that the day of the educational film is still before us, and that such subjects on the screen will be much more appreciated in days to come. And when the educational picture becomes popular it will provide one of the most efficient aids to bird protection, which, after all, is the basis upon which we should judge any system of bird photography.

A "Bird Picnic" at Wallarobba, N.S.W.

BY NEVILLE W. CAYLEY, M.B.O.U.

Early in 1925 the New South Wales Branch of the R.A.O.U. received a letter from Mr. J. J. de Warren, of Dungog, written on behalf of a small band of bird lovers who were desirous of having their properties, situated in the county of Durham, N.S.W., jointly declared a sanctuary. He stated that their application, made to the Chief Secretary, had been refused, owing to an adverse report received from the police officer in charge of the district, and asked assistance from the R.A.O.U. in having this decision reconsidered.

Fortunately, the N.S.W. Branch was in possession of information sufficient to prove that the lands suggested as a sanctuary were important, inasmuch as the district is rich in bird life, some of the species listed being northern birds having the southern limit to their range in the locality. Another point stressed was that Barrington Tops, soon to be a world-renowned tourist resort, or better still, a National Park, are close to Dungog, and any body of enthusiasts wishing to protect the native fauna and flora of the surrounding districts should be encouraged. In view of these facts, the Minister reversed his previous decision, and proclaimed the area a sanctuary.

Wallarobba sanctuary consists chiefly of privately owned grazing and dairying properties, situated in the parishes of Wallarobba, Fingal



"BIRD PINE" GROUPS, WALLAROBBA.

PHOTO BY A. MURRAY.

and Dungog. The country is mostly cleared and well watered by numerous creeks, feeders of the beautiful Williams River, which follows a winding course through most of the area, and whose banks, clothed in a luxuriant growth of vegetation, harbour many species of birds. Apart from the river flats, the country is undulating, with timbered ridges and a few isolated brushes lying well back amongst the hills, the latter teeming with bird life.

This small band of enthusiasts, wishing to celebrate the creation of their sanctuary, and at the same time give others an opportunity of visiting the area, organised a "Bird Picnic" and an invitation was extended to members of the R.A.O.U. to join in the outing. This invitation was accepted, of course, and on Friday, 30th October, 1925, a party consisting of Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Le Souef, Dr. E. A. D'Ombra, and Messrs. E. J. Bryce, A. Musgrave and N. W. Cayley left Sydney by train, arriving shortly after midnight at Dungog, where they were met and motored to the homes of their hosts. Messrs. J. K. Mackay, of "Cangon," G. B. Waller, of Wallarobba, T. M. Hooke, of "Cooks Park," and G. A. Smith, of "Munni," were our hosts, and their hospitality, for which the residents of the district are renowned, was greatly appreciated by the visitors.

Bird observing started at daybreak on Saturday, quite good lists being obtained about the different homesteads before the packed cars left to spend the day in Stony Brush, on Mr. G. B. Waller's property at Wallarobba. Here the party was joined by Messrs. W. J. Enright, S. A. Hanscombe, McInnery, and Wilkes, from West Maitland; the gathering numbered thirty in all. Under the capable leadership of Mr. de Warren, a most enjoyable day was spent amongst the birds, a list of 86 species being observed. This number was increased on the following day, and on the return trip by train as far as Newcastle, to 122 species. Several nests were found, and a nest of the Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Uroaetus audax*) was visited. This nest is a huge structure built high up in a tall dead tree, and measures roughly about 20 feet in height by about 5 feet in breadth, and weighs fully a ton, while another ton of sticks litters the ground below. Mr. Waller informed us that the nest has been in existence, to his knowledge, for 50 years. A half-eaten ring-tailed opossum was found lying on the ground beneath it, but it was impossible to see into the nest, even with field glasses, so we could not tell whether it contained young or not.

The majority of the species observed were fairly plentiful, and common to the eastern districts of New South Wales. Records of importance were the Whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*), a new record for the locality, and two descriptions of birds previously observed by Mr. De Warren, one of a Parrot which agrees with the Turquoise Parrot (*Neophema pulchella*), the other with the Plain Wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus*). Unfortunately, these two rare species were absent during our visit, so we were unable to verify the records. Other species of interests to the visitors were the Rainbow-bird (Bee-eater) (*Merops ornatus*), Channel-bill Cuckoo (*Scythrops novae-hollandiae*), Rufous Song-lark (*Cinclorhamphus mathewsi*), Blue-faced Honey-eater (*Entomyzon cyanotis*), and the Bush-lark (*Mirafra horsfieldi*).

Mr. Enright, who is interested in orchids, found many species, no less than five growing on one tree; and Mr. Musgrave, the entomologist of the party, had a profitable time collecting specimens; he was ably assisted by the younger members of both sexes.

Mr. Waller said that Brush Turkeys, once plentiful in the district, are now only found out back. He mentioned also that he once saw a Plain Turkey (Bustard) in a paddock near West Maitland.

At night the party, considerably reinforced by residents of the district, forgathered in the Memorial Town Hall, Dungog, where Mr. Le Souef gave a short discourse on Australian mammals, followed by a lantern lecture on birds by Mr. Cayley, supported by Dr. D'Ombraim and Mr. Musgrave. Each speaker referred to the successful day's outing and complimented Mr. de Warren, the organiser of the visit, and his co-workers on the excellent arrangements made for their entertainment. The visitors also congratulated those responsible on having their properties proclaimed a sanctuary, which they felt assured would repay them a thousand-fold by the benefits derived from encouraging birds about their homes.

Birds Introduced into New South Wales.*

By E. C. CHISHOLM, M.B., Ch. M., R.A.O.U., Comboyne, N.S.W.

At the present time nine species of introduced birds are thriving in New South Wales, seven of them from Great Britain and two from India. They are:—House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*), Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*), Greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*), Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), Blackbird (*Merula merula*), Indian Turtle-Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*), and Red-whiskered Bulbul (*Otocompsa emeria*).

Thirty years ago another introduced bird, the Indian Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*), was fairly common about Sydney, but it seems to have quite disappeared. It would be interesting to know the cause of its disappearance for it seemed to be doing well and had increased considerably for some years.†

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). This bird appears to have been liberated in New South Wales and Victoria independently and at separate times, possibly more than once. In Victoria apparently the bird was introduced about the early sixties of last century. My father, the late Dr. Edwin Chisholm, while practising at Camden, N.S.W., wanted a pair of Sparrows for an aviary and about the year 1866 or 1867 he wrote to the Acclimatisation Society of Victoria asking if they had a pair to spare; they replied that they could let him

*See also "Introduced Birds in Queensland," by A. H. Chisholm, *Emu*, Vol. XIX, p. 60, 1919.

†The Indian Myna has not disappeared from Sydney; it may be seen fairly freely about Moore Park and the Eastern Suburbs. Curiously, however, it never seems to thrive here as it does in Melbourne or even on the sugar-fields of North Queensland, where it was taken to combat the cane beetle.—EDITOR.